

Ann Nelson. He married Matilda Hansena Peterson on Dec. 1, 1881, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. Matilda was born April 19, 1863, at Bornholm, Denmark, a daughter of Hanse Peter and Christina Margaret Peterson. Matilda died February 18, 1907, at Daniel. He married Sadie Moore on Aug. 23, 1911. She was born February 4, 1874, at Rocky Mount, Edgecombe County, N. C., daughter of Theophilus and Catherine Proctor Moore. She died February 11, 1924, and Wilford died May 7, 1933 at Daniel.

In 1864 Wilford moved with his parents to Heber and in 1874 to Buysville.

Matilda's mother had joined the LDS Church in Denmark, so when Matilda was five years old her mother sailed for America, bringing Matilda and her sister, Caroline Petronella, who was born Oct. 6, 1860, with her and leaving her husband behind, for he had not accepted the new religion. For nine long weeks, in 1868, they were on the water. During this time Petronella died and was buried at sea. After arriving in America, Matilda and her mother started across the plains for Salt Lake, but as they neared their destination, the mother became ill and died at the last camping place before they reached Salt Lake, so her body was brought to Salt Lake and buried September 5, 1868.

This left Matilda an orphan in a strange land and among people who could not speak her language. However, a very kind woman, Mrs. Sarah Duel, had just previous to this time offered to take the next orphan who arrived with the pioneer companies, so Matilda was given to Mrs. Duel. Sarah Duel divorced Duel and married William T. Thacker and they moved to Heber, then to Buysville, bringing Matilda with them.

Wilford Nelson, known by his friends as "If" Nelson, was recognized as the outstanding fly fisherman in the western United States, starting at five years of age fishing Utah Lake and Provo River. When six years old the family moved to Heber Valley and here he fished using silver side minnows and bullheads rather than angleworms. One summer day, as he was sitting on the river bank, he saw the trout rising to the surface of the water and going down again. As he watched he discovered they were taking the live flies and bugs that rested on top of the later. He watched them all day, taking special notice of the time they were jumping for flies and bugs. This is how he got the

idea of making artificial flies to fish with. For 60 years he made a business of making these flies.

He was a skilled trapper and made his own animal "scents" to help attract animals to his traps. When the federal government started to hire trappers for the control of rodents and predators, he and his son, Wilford Osmond (Ozzie) were two of the first men to be hired in the western United States for this work.

On November 1, 1915, he was sent out to Ibapah, on the Nevada line between Utah and Nevada, where there was a bad outbreak of rabies in the coyotes. Here again he did a very creditable job.

In these lines of employment he made a good living for those times, for his family which lived on 20 acres of land in Buysville. The children were taught to work, and they all worked in the Church.

She was the mother of : Hyrum, Christine Margaret, Matilda Ann (Anita), Mary Emily, Elfie, Wilford Osmond, Carl Henry, Caroline, Minnie Jenette and Nymphus Alma.

Sadie arrived in Utah September 1, 1901, and lived in Provo. Wilford and Sadie had one daughter, Sadie Mae.

During his last years Wilford lived with his daughter and son-in-law, Tom and Mary Orgill. He was an Elder in the Church.

## HYRUM AND SARAH ANN WOODS OAKS



Hyrum Oaks was born in Susquehanna County Pennsylvania, September 7, 1824, son of James Selah and Catherine Almira Pritchard Oaks. He married Sarah Ann Woods on December 6, 1848, at Winter Quarters. She was born April 8, 1827, at Cornwall, Canada, daughter of David and Catherine Christs Woods. Hyrum died on

March 26, 1902 and Sarah Ann on April 8, 1906, at Vernal, Utah.

The family moved to New York and from there to Illinois. While moving around they came in contact with the Church and later joined.

While in Illinois, Hyrum worked for the Prophet Joseph Smith's father. He became the best of friends with the Prophet, playing ball and participating in many other sports with him. While he was staying at the Smith home, the four mummies from which the papyrus scrolls for the Pearl of Great Price were taken, were sent there. These mummies were placed in the room opposite his room, unknown to him. He said the door had blown open during the night and on awakening he saw the mummies. He became so frightened he grabbed his clothes and ran downstairs.

He worked on the Nauvoo Temple 12 years without any pay and helped dig the well under the temple. He served as a body-guard for the Prophet, having many strange and terrible experiences. At the time of the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum he said it was one of the most gruesome experiences in his life, for he knew them as well as he knew his own brothers.

He married 19-year-old Sarah Ann Woods on December 5, 1848, at Winter Quarters. 1827, in Cornwall, Canada. On July 4, Sarah was a daughter of David and Catherine Christs Woods and was born April 8, 1840, she, with her family, crossed the St. Lawrence River, arriving on October 1, 1840, at Nauvoo, and made their home there until they were driven from the city by the mob in 1845. From there they went across the Mississippi River into Iowa and to Winter Quarters. She also was well acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his wife, Emma, having worked for her. She also knew Hyrum Smith and was in Nauvoo at the time of the martyrdom in Carthage jail, and saw their dead bodies. She knew they were prophets of God. She worked in the Primary Association. She died at Vernal on April 8, 1906, on her seventy-ninth birthday.

They, with his parents and family, came across the plains with the Wilford Wood company. He was at the Haun's Mill massacre when the mob followed them and killed many. The company arrived in Salt

Lake in 1852. He knew President Brigham Young very well. They had only been in Salt Lake a short time when they were sent to American Fork by President Young and later sent to Provo or Heber Valley.

They were among the first settlers to spend the winter in this valley. Their first homestead was by the old Heber Creamery spring. They were here a few years and then moved out to what later was known as the George and John Clift place, at the mouth of Daniels Canyon. Here he farmed and ran a saw and shingle mill. Before they could raise enough hay of their own they went into Strawberry Valley, cut meadow hay and hauled it home for their stock's winter feed. In the winter he hunted in the mountains. He did his own blacksmithing, horseshoeing and repairs in his mill.

He was instrumental in surveying the mile-long Strawberry Canal in 1879, with the aid of his son John and William S. Bethers, using a plumbob and spirit level. Many competent surveyors say that this canal is one of the best surveyed mountain ditches they have ever seen.

Indians were a constant problem to the settlers, stealing horses and cattle and threatening the settlers' lives. Whenever the Indians were on the rampage, Hyrum was always called out to help, because he was a good shot. He never would tell how many Indians he killed. He fought in the Blackhawk War.

He liked amusements and played the violin for many dances in the valley.

In 1899 he moved his family and sawmill to Ashley Valley, now known as Vernal, hauling his mill out with ox teams and locating at Oaks Park on Taylor Mountain.

Hyrum and Sarah Ann were the parents of 11 children: Martin, William Henry, Katherine, Edwin, John Osborn, Sarah Ann, Rozella, Mary Agnes, James, Oscar Alonzo, and Amanda Elizabeth.

## HYRUM EDWIN AND SARAH CAMPBELL OAKS

Hyrum Edwin Oaks was born at American Fork on January 6, 1854, son of Hyrum and Sarah Woods Oaks. He married Sarah Campbell on March 20, 1878. She was a daughter of James and Jannett Campbell.



He came to Heber with his pioneer parents to live when a small child. For awhile they lived in Heber, then came to Daniels. Hyrum and Sarah lived in Heber, Center Creek and Daniels Creeks. To them four children were born: Edwin L., Jennie, James and William Wallace.

They moved to Maesar Ward, as it is known now, at Vernal, in 1888. He helped his father and brothers haul a sawmill out there with yokes of oxen. There they sawed all kinds of lumber and made shingles. In the summer time their wives went to the sawmill, where, besides their regular work, they tied shingles. Winter work in the timber was hard. The overalls would stand stiff when they were pulled off and were never dry by morning.

They moved their mill to Oaks Park, which is still called a beautiful spot in the mountains.

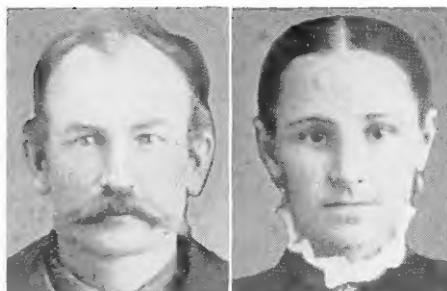
Mr. Oaks bought 50 acres of land, which he farmed, and Sarah bought a sewing machine. Being a very fine seamstress, she did a great deal of sewing for other people.

They had another son, Lindsay, born at Vernal.

Indians were bad at that time, so if her husband had to be away at night she would keep Edwin up with her for company while she worked.

## JOHN OSBORN AND MARY JANE BETHERS OAKS

John O. Oaks was born in American Fork, Utah, on May 18, 1856, son of Hyrum and Sarah Ann Woods Oaks. While very young, his parents moved to Heber Valley, where he was one of the first white babies



to survive the winter, living in a covered wagon. Later the family moved to a farm at the mouth of Daniels Canyon, where he spent his early years hunting wild animals with his father and having many Indian experiences.

He married Mary Jane Bethers, oldest child of William S. and Phebe H. McMillan Bethers, on August 5, 1884, in Daniel, and later in the Salt Lake Temple. Mary Jane was born August 27, 1867, at Wanship, Summit County, Utah. While very young her parents moved to Heber, living in a one-room, dirt-roofed log house. When she was six years old her father took up a homestead along Daniel Creek and they moved their house from Heber in 1874 to the farm and lived there many years. She was the only help her parents had for years, assisting in clearing the land and cultivating the crops, so she learned to do hard work.

As a girl, she was very apt with a needle and thread and was a fine seamstress. Later in life she made beautiful burial shoes for the dead many years. She and her mother used to walk to Heber, carrying their butter and eggs to trade for groceries and cloth, which they carried home. On one of these trips she sewed on a shirt for one of her brothers.

She also was a very excellent cook. When one thinks of welfare they can very easily think of Mary Jane, for she was always prepared for the years ahead with clothing, bedding and food. Her cellar was always filled with a variety of good things to eat and she was always ready to help someone or to send food to anyone in need. The vegetable gardens she cared for were pictures to behold.



John and Mary Jane lived in Vernal several years of their early married life, where he worked with his father and brothers in a saw and shingle mill. Later they returned to Daniels. He worked with his father and father-in-law, William Bethers, surveying and helping build the Strawberry ditch to bring irrigation water to the Daniel farms. He also worked in the timber a great deal, cutting and hauling logs down the canyon. He always owned a good team of horses, taking great pride in having them well groomed and in good shape. He did much team work.

Both he and his wife worked in the Church, he as a counselor in Sunday School and in the YMMIA, and she as a counselor in the YWMIA, a teacher in Sunday School, Primary and Relief Society. She held a perfect record of 16 years of visiting teaching, walking several miles in visiting families in her district. John also drove groups of students to school in Heber by team and wagon or sleigh, according to weather.

After three years of illness, John died at his home in Daniel, November 25, 1924, and Mary Jane passed away November 6, 1950, at Daniel, after almost three years of illness.

They were the parents of 10 children: Phebe Ann, Mary Jane, Sarah Elizabeth, Hyrum, John Henry, William Wallace, Warren, Ralph, Inez and Taylor Martin.

### WILLIAM AND JANETT BETHERS OAKS



William Oaks was born in Heber City, son of Martin and Abigail Reynolds Oaks. He married Janett Bethers at her parents' home at Daniel, Bishop P. H. McGuire performing the ceremony. Later the marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. She was born May 23, 1871, at Heber, sec-

ond child of William S. and Phebe H. McMillan Bethers.

Janett Bethers was a daughter of William S. and Phebe McMillan Bethers. She, like all other children, helped with farm and house work. All children at that time also walked to Center Creek to school and Church activities.

As she grew older she bunched shingles at the McGuire shingle mill. When the Daniel Branch was organized, in 1889, and Bishop P. H. McGuire taught school, Janett substituted for him when he couldn't be there.

She was married to William Oaks, nephew of John H. Oaks, at her parents' home, by Bishop McGuire. They spent a short while living in a new barn John Oaks had built for his horses, taking their meals with John and his wife, Mary Jane, Janett's sister, before going to Vernal to make their home.

She became the mother of 16 children, a very outstanding family of doctors, nurses, educators, etc., all of them being well educated. All were born at Vernal. Because it was such a long distance to Vernal and the means of travel slow, Janett never visited her home many times.

Their children follow: Dr. Lewis Westons Oaks, Ernest Mahlon, Martin Eryvn, William Basil, Stanley Glen, Nettie Hermoine, Dr. Lloyd Edress, Nellie May, Dr. Victor LeRoy, Jessie Abigail, Phebe Hilda, Wilbur Taylor, Charles Ellsworth, Lynne Eugene, Eunice Verda and Iris Velva.

### WILLIAM HENRY AND MARY SESSIONS OAKS



William Henry Oaks was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa, on July 17, 1849, son of Hyrum and Sarah Woods Oaks. He mar-